



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ACED
Agricultural Competitiveness and
Enterprise Development Project



PHYTOSANITARY INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION - MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF ISPM 7, 20, AND 23 PHASE I

JULY - AUGUST 2011

**AGRICULTURAL COMPETITIVENESS AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT (ACED)**

SEPTEMBER 2011

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by DAI.

PHYTOSANITARY INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION - MEETING THE REQUIRMENTS OF ISPM 7, 20, AND 23 PHASE I

JULY - AUGUST 2011

Program Title:	Agricultural competitiveness and Enterprise Development Project (ACED)
Sponsoring USAID Office:	USAID Ukraine Regional Contract Office
Contract Number:	AID-117-C-11-0001
Contractor:	DAI
Date of Publication:	September, 2011
Author:	Thomas Deeb, T&M Associates

The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BRIEF INTRODUCTION.....	4
DISCUSSION	5
SPECIFIC NOTES.....	6
YEAR-1 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES.....	7
WATERFALL – PHYTOSANITARY WEB SITE.....	11

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

SPS compliance is a critical component of the HVA strategy. Trading partners expect Moldovan HVA products to be free of weeds, pests, and diseases. They expect products to be free of contaminants, including pesticides residues, pathogens, mycotoxins, and heavy metals that could impact the importing country's human and animal health. Failure to comply can and has led to import bans that have a devastating impact on the HVA industry. For example on May 16th, 2005, the Russian Federation banned the import of Moldovan fruit and vegetables due to high levels of pesticide residues. This ban resulted in a 50% drop in apple exports over the two year period, from a high of 136,000 mt to 79,000 mt in 2007 when the ban was lifted, and resulted in an approximately 50 million USD loss in revenue.

A key component of the ACED effort is rebuilding basic SPS capacity (inspection, certification and diagnostics) to ensure that the Government of Moldova's SPS systems meets the basic requirements as outlined in ISPM 7, 20 and 23. The ability to test materials for chemicals, pathogens, pests, weeds and disease is a key component of a phytosanitary control system. The 2009 assessment noted that the phytosanitary group did not have the equipment, process or procedures to perform the required testing and recommended significant investment by the Government of Moldova and United States Government to improve the situation in support of exports of HVA products. It was also noted in 2009 that there were laboratories that could support the phytosanitary group by providing testing for chemicals, especially pesticide residues, and pathogens within the government and therefore instead of replicating this capacity the investments should be focused on those areas that are unique to phytosanitary control.

In April 2011 ACED conducted a rapid assessment of Moldova's SPS capacity, focusing on inspection, certification and laboratory testing, to identify what had changed since 2009. This assessment found that in general little had changed since the initial assessment in 2009 and that the Government of Moldova's phytosanitary system was lacking compliance with ISPM 7, 20 and 23. In addition since the assessment was conducted in April of 2011, the senior management of the phytosanitary Inspectorate and Directorate had changed. Thus leading to the need to introduce the program to the government officials, gain their buy-in and re-develop a timeline that met the needs of the government and ACED.

DISCUSSION

The ability to meet the requirements of ISPM 7, 20 and 23 are core competencies that the Moldovan government lacks. The government recognizes the need to improve their systems and processes and is willing to dedicate resources and time to this effort. The government also is in the midst of change. Key leadership has changed. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry is in the process of detailing a plan for an integrated single food agency that would combine key activities such as border inspection, certification, laboratories, and risk assessment. Further there is a new EU support program on pesticide residue monitoring plan development that has begun that is consuming the time and energy of senior management.

Yet even in these times of change and multiple priorities, the Director of the State Phytosanitary Service and the Chief of the Phytosanitary Inspectorate are willing and committed to beginning the first phase of development that will lead to compliance with ISPM 20 and 23.

Therefore a path forward was agreed to on specific items to move the agency forward in preparation for the implementation of new inspection systems and processes required to meet the countries trading partner's expectations and obligations.

The specific items are consistent with assessment and recommendation of the March 2009 and April 2011 assessments and will focus on the areas of development of key reference materials to be used by the inspectorate that include: plants, weeds, and diseases in Moldova; compendium of diseases, plants and weeds of significance in harmonized with EU and EPPO requirements; a list of quarantine pests, weeds and diseases for Moldova harmonized with EPPO; lexicon of Phytosanitary terms in English, Russian, and Moldovan.

Further the inspectorate and service are interested in an upgraded web site that will include information for trading partners, laws and regulations, locations of inspection points, details the process of import and export certification, provides trading partners with updated information on diseases of concern in the Republic, and provides a secure area for use by the inspectorate personnel that would include training materials, reference materials, procedures, and possibly in the future on-line certificate development and issuance.

In addition, the Director of the service and Chief of the inspectorate requested ACED's assistance in supporting the development of a relationship with the corresponding Romanian service. The purpose of this relationship is to support the Government of Moldova in their efforts to not only comply with ISPM standards but further to harmonize their systems of certification and inspection with EU norms. Developing a relationship with the Romanian service has significant benefits for the service and the ACED project. Romania has the single longest EU border with Moldova and historically was one of the largest trading partners for Moldovan agricultural and food products. Moldova and Romania share a common language so that translation is not a barrier and further technical topics are easier to communicate than with English speakers where much is lost in translation. While Romania was not a direct part of the USSR they were a satellite country and they understand and have successfully made the transition from a Soviet style inspection and certification to one that meets international and EU standards. The learnings from this successfully making this transition will help the Moldovan service as they make a similar transition as a part of the government efforts to harmonize or approximate EU norms.

It is this author's recommendation that ACED support the Government of Moldova in their request and look for ways to enable a successful dialogue and future development that engages the Romanian counterparts and supports the development of robust program between the organizations. The author recognizes that this is not a simple strategy and may need to involve USAID as well as Embassy personnel in both countries, but there

is a precedent for this type of collaboration on the economic front as both embassies have been engaged in identification of new business for Romanian and Moldovan companies in each country.

The action plan, timeline, and specific responsibilities outline in the next section were reviewed and agreed to with the Moldovan counterparts. This plan took into consideration the other activities that were on-going within the government and the availability of resources.

SPECIFIC NOTES

1. The State Plant Protection Service and Phytosanitary Inspectorate have resource and time constraints due to the inception of the EU program therefore the activities that have been agreed to are all they are will to commit to for year.
2. The support of developing a relationship with the Romanian counterparts is of key importance to the ACED Moldovan counter parts and they have requested ACED assistance in this area. This provides a significant opportunity for ACED if the program can be developed in a way that allows for knowledge and information sharing in that it will increase the speed of development.
3. ACED will work cooperatively with the Government counterparts in the development and publication of the reference materials. The format of publication will need to be driven by cost and effectiveness considerations. For example it may not be needed to publish all of the materials in bound hard copy instead loosely bound laminated versions maybe more effective and less costly. The decision of publication format will be made in collaboration with the Moldovan government counter parts.
4. Translations of key ISPM standards in Russian and Romanian were delivered to the Phytosanitary organization on CD. The Russian translations were obtained from the European Plant Protection Organization. 27 of 34 ISPM standards were translated from English into Romanian by the Government of Moldova.
5. A high level web site waterfall was developed and presented to the Moldovan counterparts. This waterfall will be used as the basis for the development of the RFP for the Plant Protection Web Site as it provides the IT firms and web site designers with an overall flow of information that will be required to develop a cost estimate. This is not too viewed as a website design.
6. It was agreed that the content of the web site as well as key publications will be provided by the Moldovan government. ACED will be responsible for the translation of the content into English where needed.

YEAR-1 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Detailed Activity Plan

Year 1- Proposed Activities – Inspections (ISPM 20 & 23)

Phytosanitary Compliance Program

Key Area	Critical GAPS	Key Activities to Close Gaps	KPIs	Key Outcomes	Month	Responsibility
Inspection						
Requirement 5.0	Lack of inspection controls at border and internal inspections points	Link Phytosanitary inspectors with Asycuda	12 border points are linked to Asycuda and inspectors are determining which shipments to inspect based on risk	Increased notification of Phytosanitary officers of shipment arrivals at border and internal inspection points	Complete by Dec 2011	MAFI
		Develop a risk based inspection model consistent with IPPC and EC requirements Risk based model is a part of the training		Inspections at the border are being carried out based on risk based model	Nov 2011 – this has been moved into year 2	
Requirement 5.2.2	Lack of information available to the inspectors on importing country requirements (Russia/Belarus & EU)	Complete translation of EPPO and Key IPPC references in to Moldovan	10 key items are translated into Moldovan as Russian exists included ISPM 5, 7, 20 and 23 as well as other key texts	Key ISPM and EPPO references translated including various pests and distributed to all inspectors during training	July 2011 – 35 were delivered in Russian and 31 were delivered in Romanian	
		Creation of a phytosanitary web site to improve communication with trading partners, importers and exporters and support inspectors		Establishment of multi-lingual web site that provides required information on import, export requirements, pests (regulated and non-regulated) as well as contact information and notification for changes in laws, regulation or normative acts	Year 1	A.C and MAFI

Key Area	Critical GAPS	Key Activities to Close Gaps	KPIs	Key Outcomes	Month	Responsibility
		Waterfall layout presented and content discussed			July 2011	T. Deeb
		Content review with MAFI needs to happen to include the areas to be used only by government officials			Sept. 2011	A.C
		Final waterfall developed and RFP for web site design and development issued			Oct. 2011	A.C.
		Content for the web site in Romanian and Russian Developed by MAFI			Oct. – Dec. 2011	A.C and MAFI
		English version where needed are prepared			Oct. –Dec 2011	A.C. and MAFI
		Beta test of web site produced			Dec. 2011	A.C
		Web site review is conducted and modifications are made as needed			Jan. 2011	A.C.
		Final web site review and publication			Feb. 2011	A.C
Requirement 5.2.2	Lack of technical information on quarantine and non-quarantine pests in Moldova	Reference materials on Plant pests, weeds and disease identification are developed and published	Key reference materials are developed including compendium of disease of significance and quarantine for Moldova and EPPO/EC Lexicon of phytosanitary terms (English, Russian and Moldovan)	Reference texts on Moldovan quarantine and non-quarantine pests is published distribution during training	August – Dec 2011	A.C

Key Area	Critical GAPS	Key Activities to Close Gaps	KPIs	Key Outcomes	Month	Responsibility
			Posters on disease are developed			
			Development of the content for the diseases, pests and weeds book for inspectors in Russian and Romanian		Sept. – Oct. 2011	MAFI
			Develop specifications for printing including type of format and cover design in collaboration with counterparts		Sept. 2011	A.C
			Develop RFP for printed materials and issue RFP and select vendor		Oct. 2011	A.C
			Final review and printing of materials		Nov. 2011	A.C
			Prepare content for the tri-lingual lexicon based on ISPM 5 which is available in English, Romanian, and Russian		Sept. 2011	A.C and MAFI
			Develop the specifications for printing and cover design in collaboration with counterparts		Oct. 2011	
			Prepare RFP, review and select printing vendor		Nov. 2011	A.C
			Final review and printing of materials		Dec. 2011	A.C
			Develop pest list for Moldova		Jan. 2012	MAFI and A.C
			Ensure the pest list is harmonized with EPPO including pests of interest		Feb. 2012	MAFI and A.C

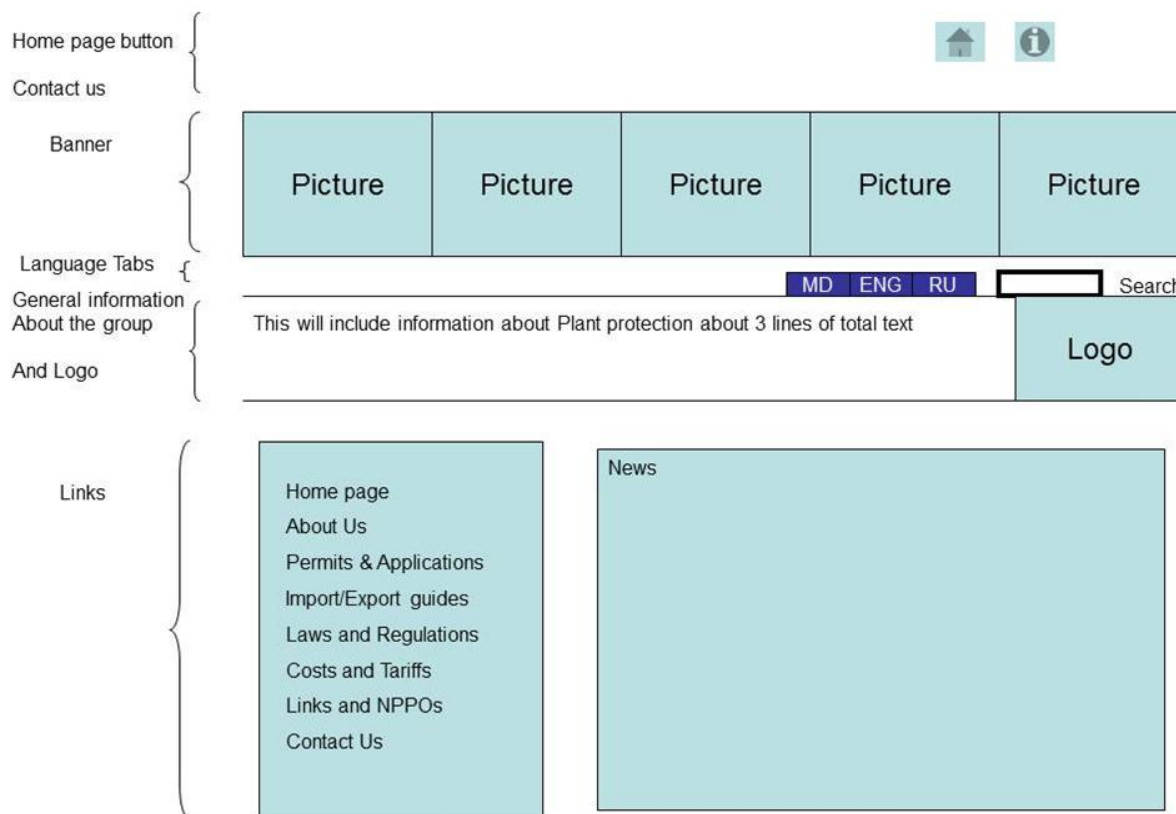
Key Area	Critical GAPS	Key Activities to Close Gaps	KPIs	Key Outcomes	Month	Responsibility
			Prepare final list and publish on web site and prepare for inspectors		March 2012	MAFI and A.C
			Prepare a list of pests, disease and weeds that are of significant interest to develop a poster		Feb. 2012	MAFI and A.C
			Develop a poster format and specification, create RFP, issue and select vendor		Feb. 2012	MAFI and A.C.
			Print Posters		March 2012	A.C
			Items are printed and ready for dispersal		Feb – March 2012	A.C
Evaluation of Romanian opportunity			Work with ACED to develop a strategy for working with Romanian counter parts. Evaluate options and begin discussions		Sept. 2011	T. Deeb and G. Kilmer
			Based on the evaluation and strategy develop action plan		Oct. 2011	T. Deeb and G. Kilmer
			Begin execution of the action plan		Nov. 2011	T. Dee, A.C and G. Kilmer

WATERFALL – PHYTOSANITARY WEB SITE

The intent of the items below are to provide the web site designer and developer with an understanding of the content as well as the number of pages that are to be created. This is not a web design and should not be viewed as such. Further the areas for the internal section of the web site have not been added as these are yet to be determined and will be added once the content/activities are determined.

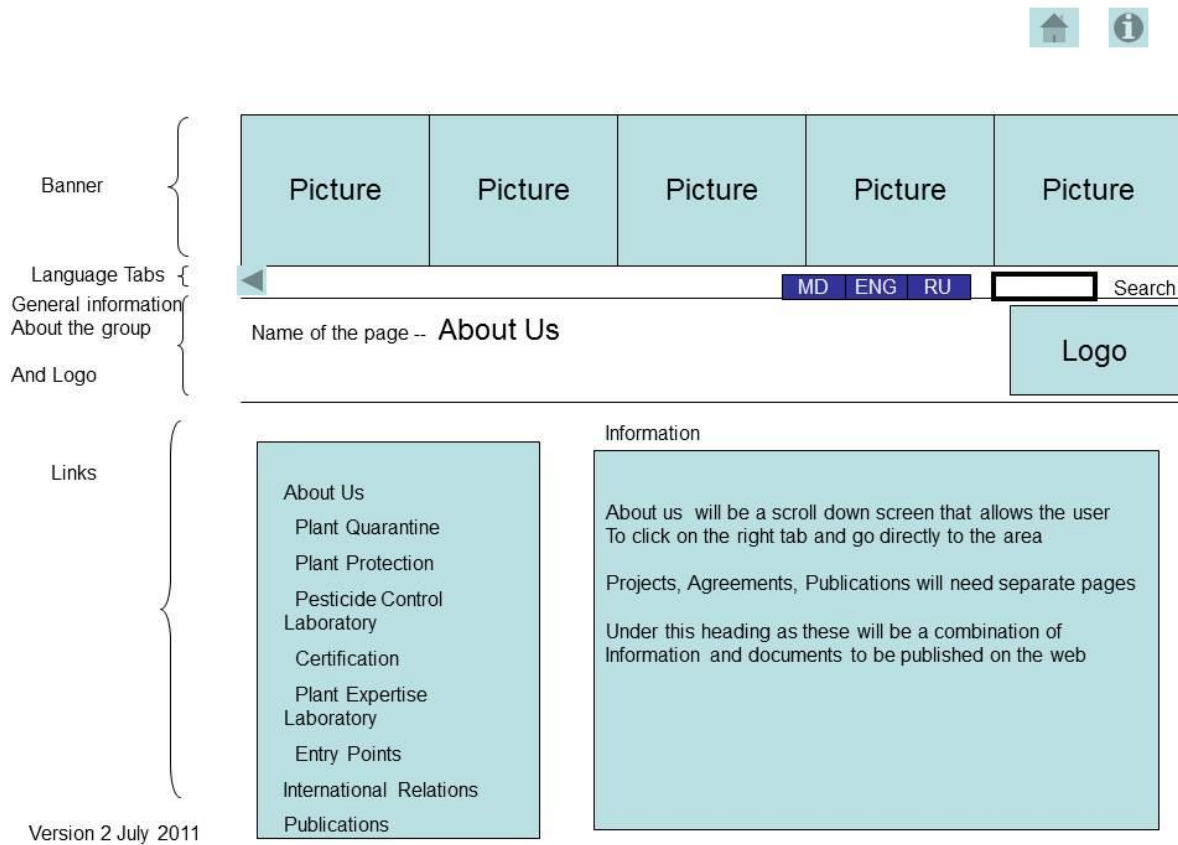
In addition for the purposes of development it is intended that the web site will have more than 20 simultaneous users, will need to be hosted using a hosting service, and IP domain will need to be purchased and the database will need to handle text, numeric, pdf, and photographs. It will need to have spell check and will need to have different Access level by user type with some fields having access levels as well all of which are based on user type and password. Since this will have areas that are tri-lingual this indicates that there will either be three linked web sites or other development alternatives are possible.

Home Page --- the first page that is seen by the user

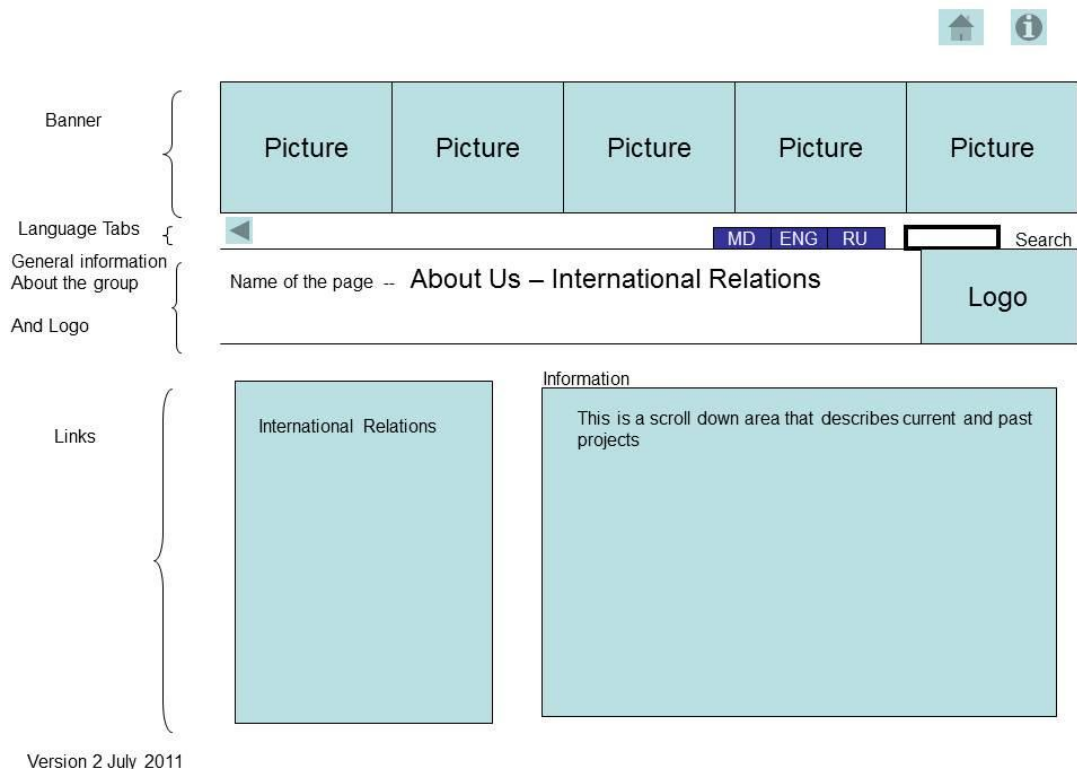


Version 2 July 2011

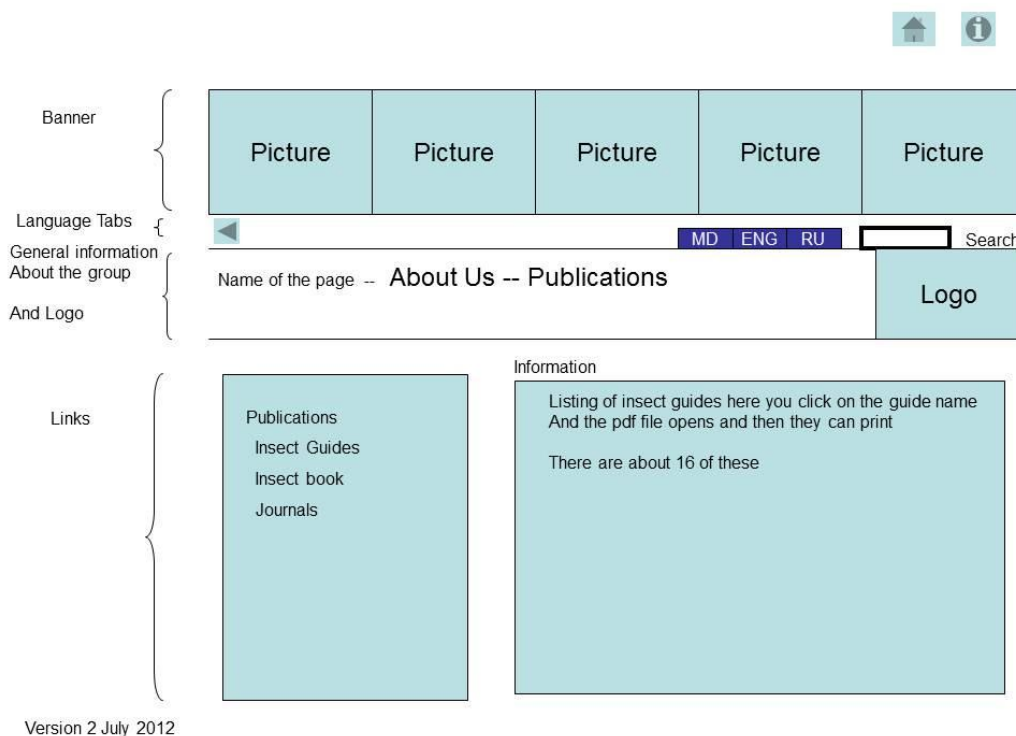
About US Page



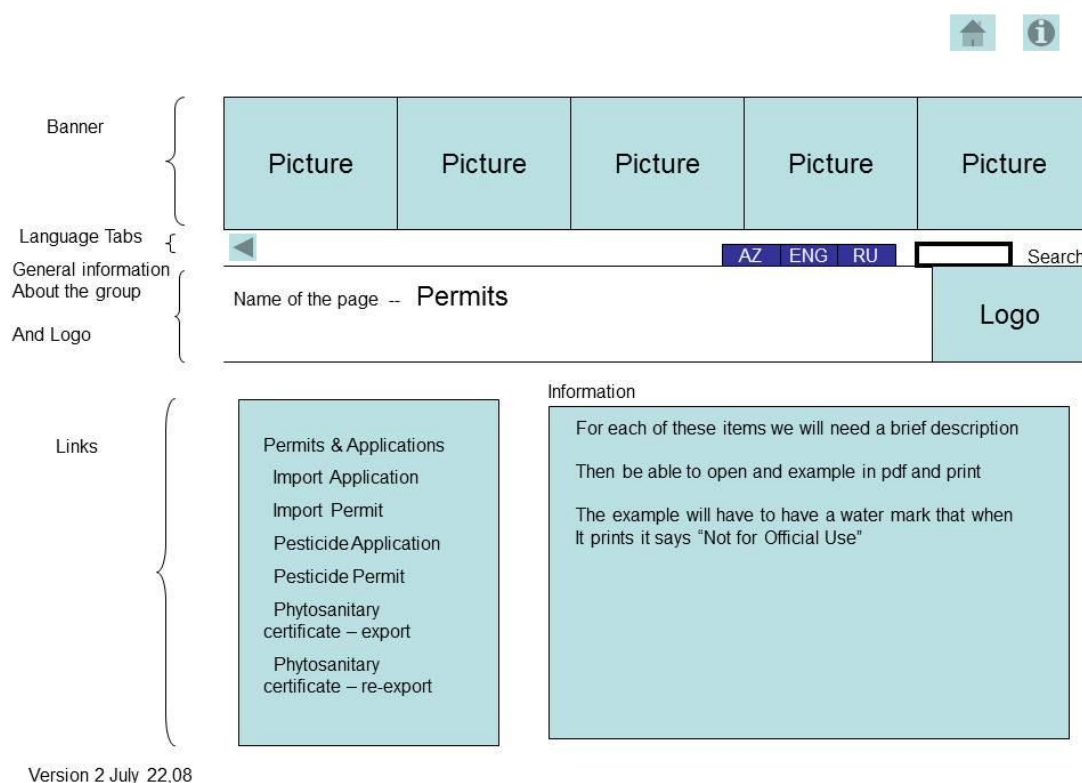
International Relations – this lists current and past projects



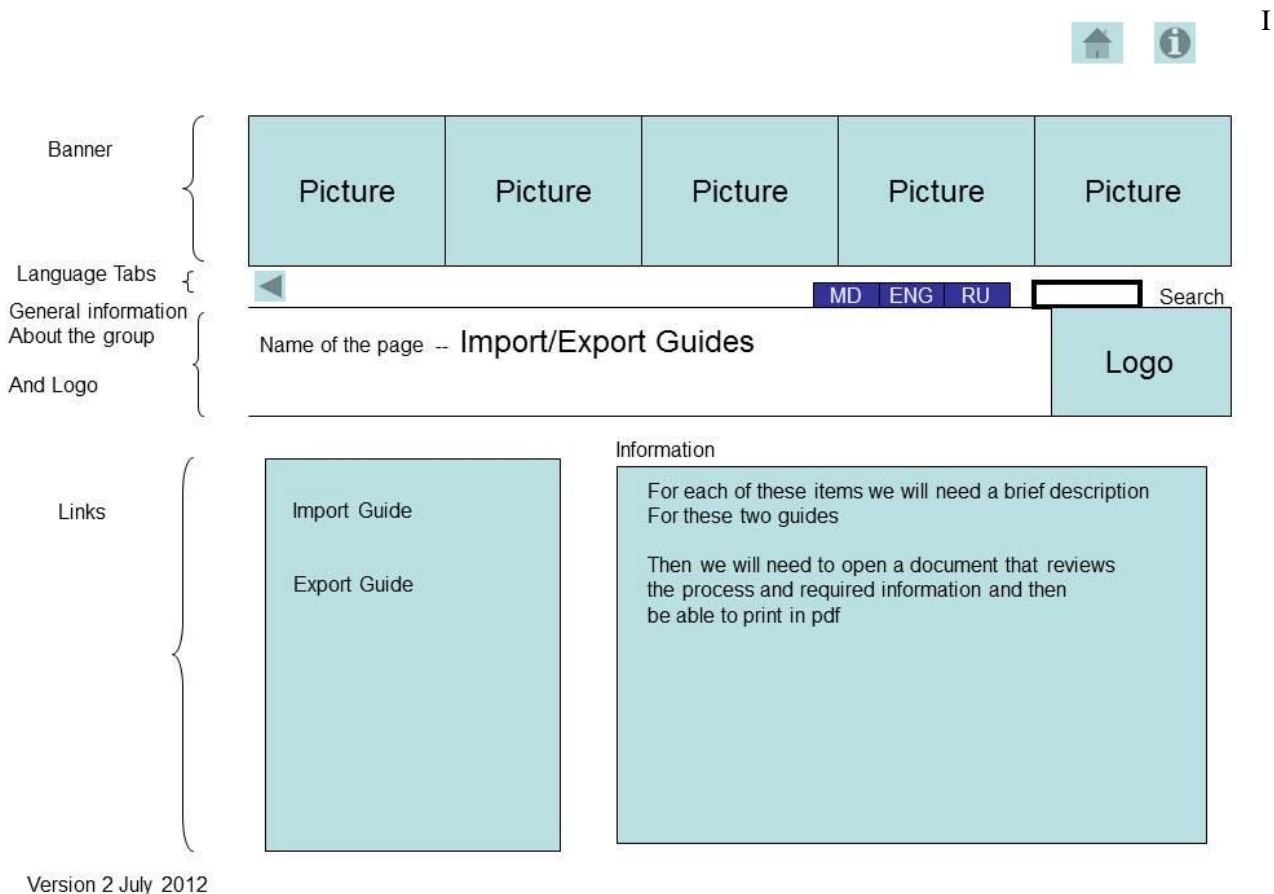
Publications -- this include copies of the various guides, booklets, lexicon, information tools the ministry has developed all in PDF format for easy download. The language of the documents will dictate which ones are located on each site as not all will be in three languages.



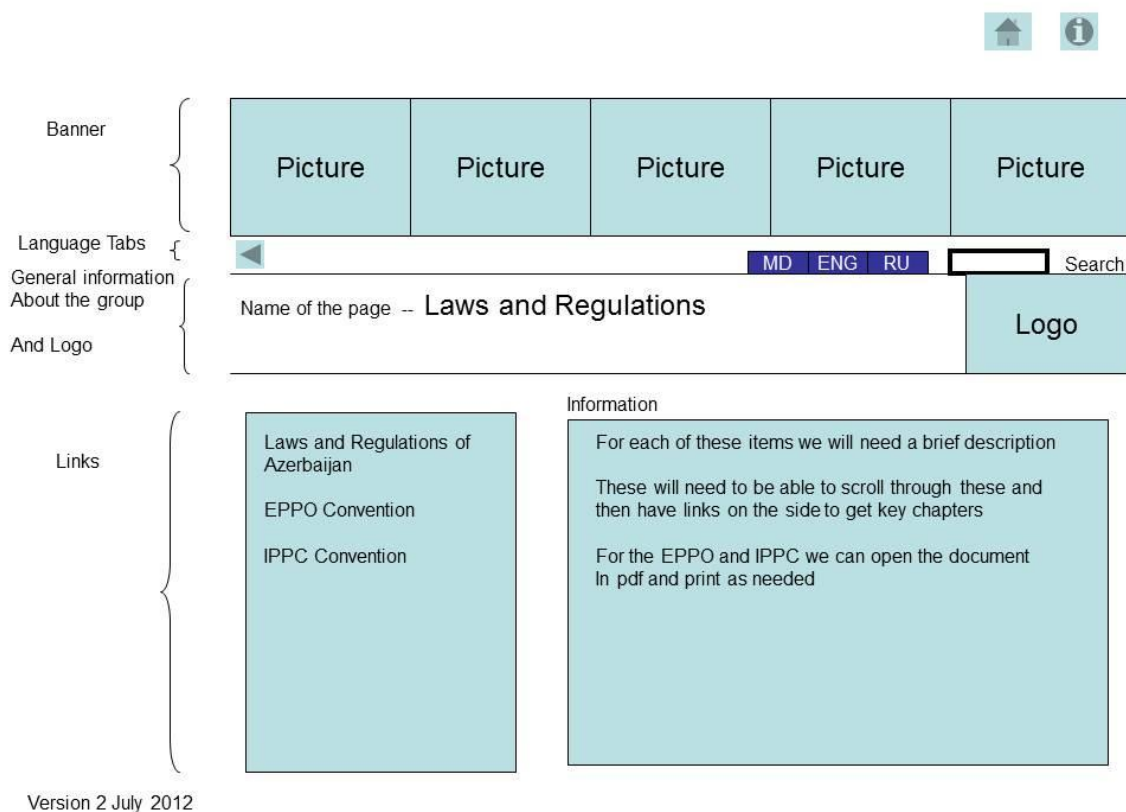
Permits --- this section is for importers, exporters and trading partners to understand the requirements for plant based products in Moldovan, Russian and English



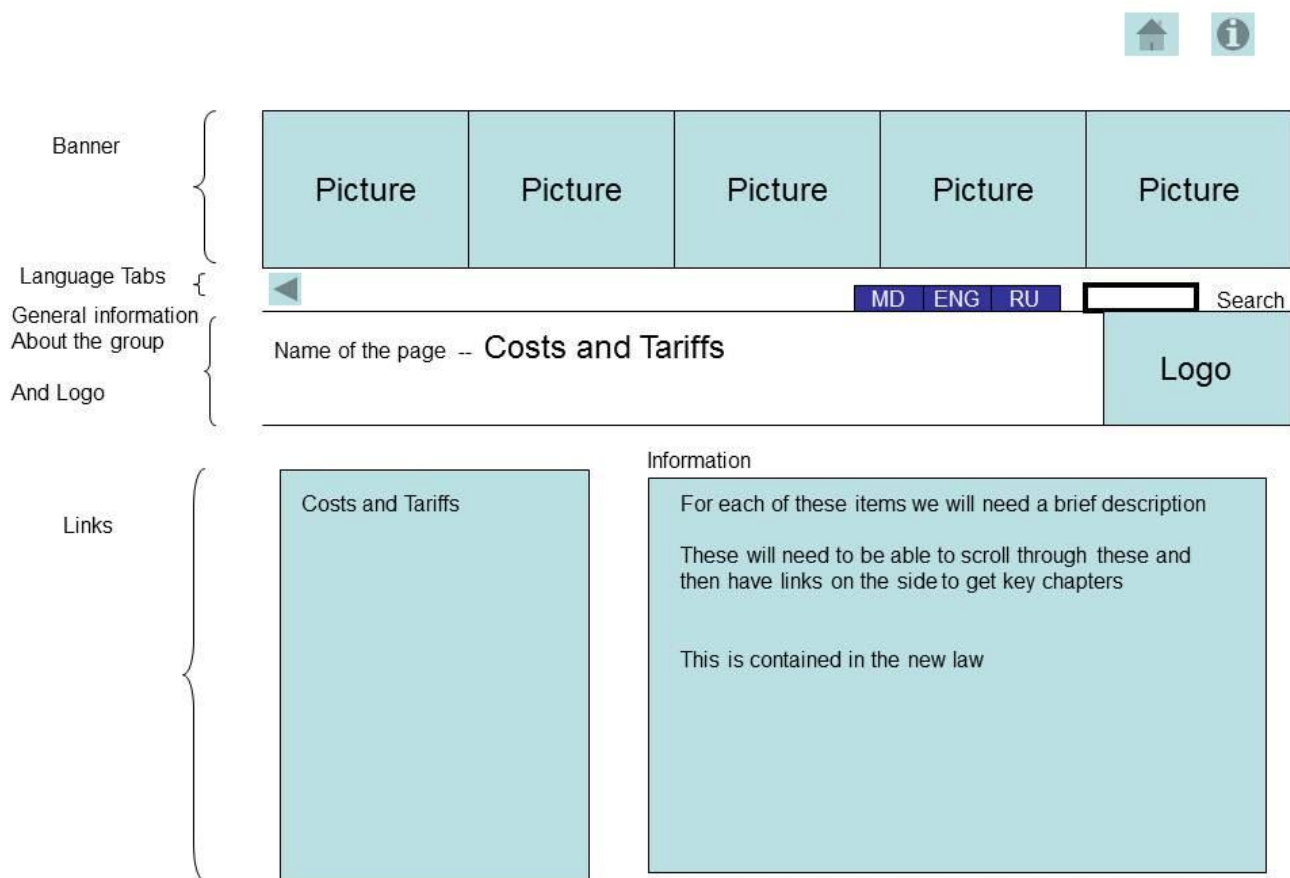
Import/Export Guides -- designed to describe the process and requirements for import export



Laws and Regulations – this provides all stake holders with a copy of the laws and regulations in Moldovan, Russian and Englis

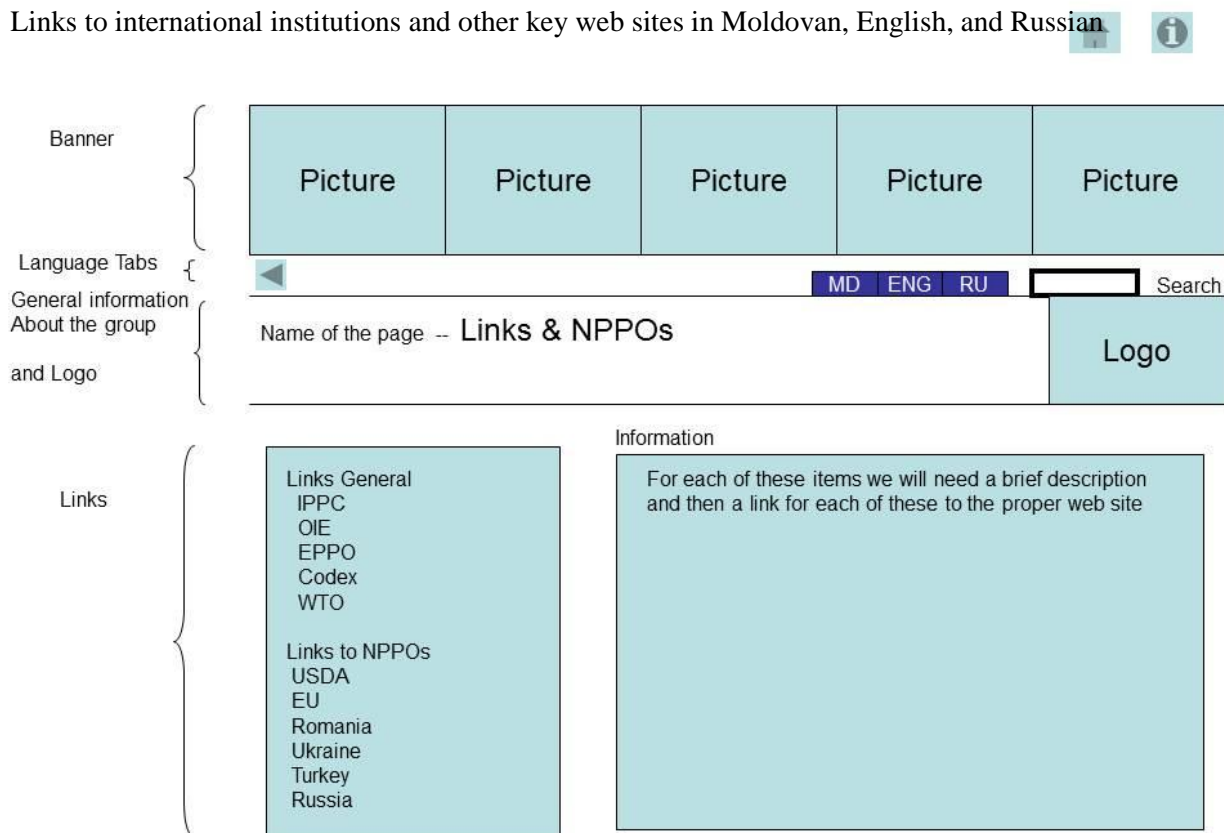


Cost and Tariffs -- this provides a listing of all costs and tariffs that are charged by the ministry in Moldovan, English and Russian.



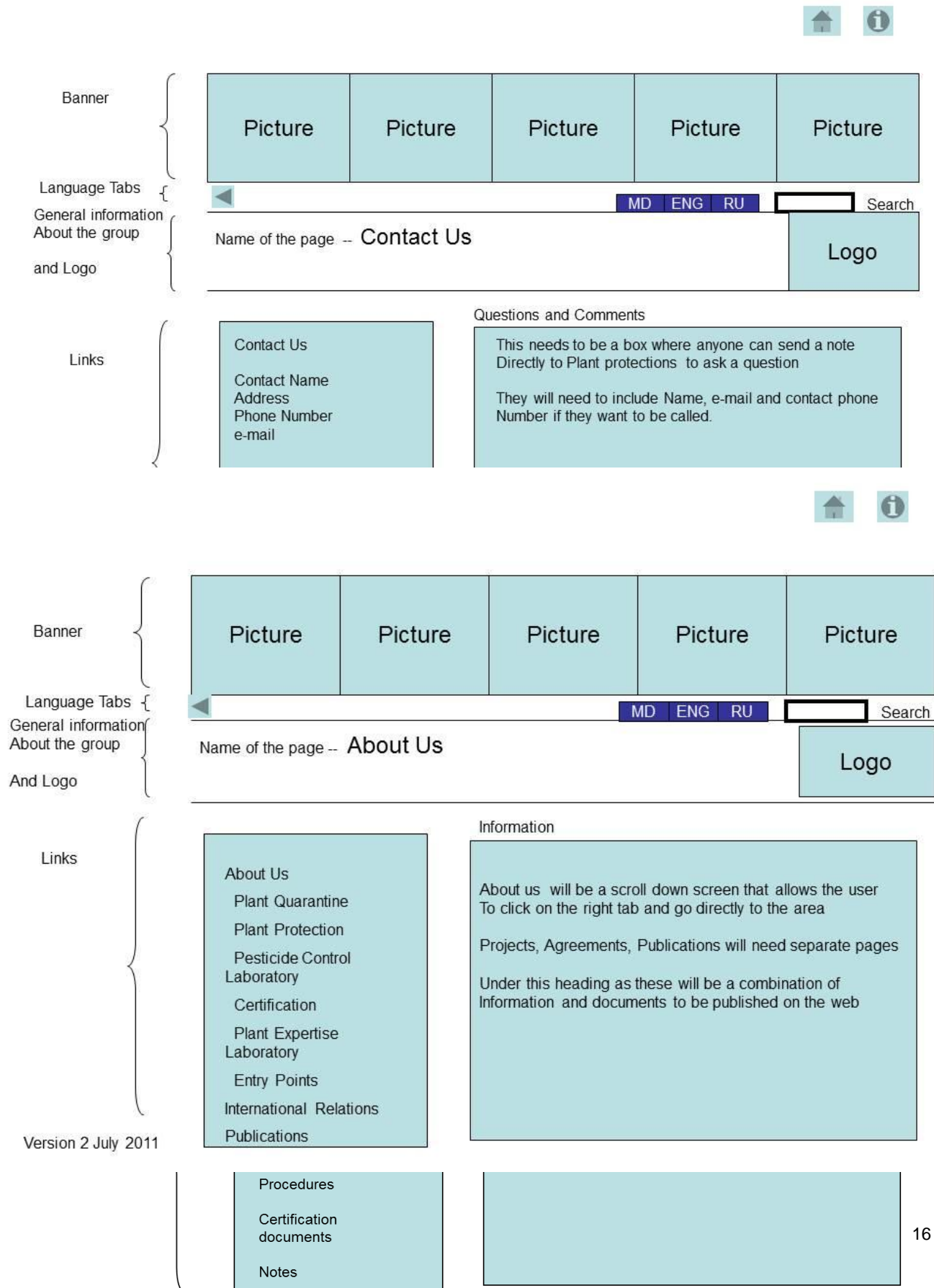
Version 2 July 2012

Links to international institutions and other key web sites in Moldovan, English, and Russian.



Version 2 July 2011

Contact US – designed to provide information on the service as well a mechanism to contact the service via email.



Version 2 July 2011

Version 2 July 2011